

HEALTH
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BOROUGH OF



STALYBRIDGE.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

THE
ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1955

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STALYBRIDGE.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

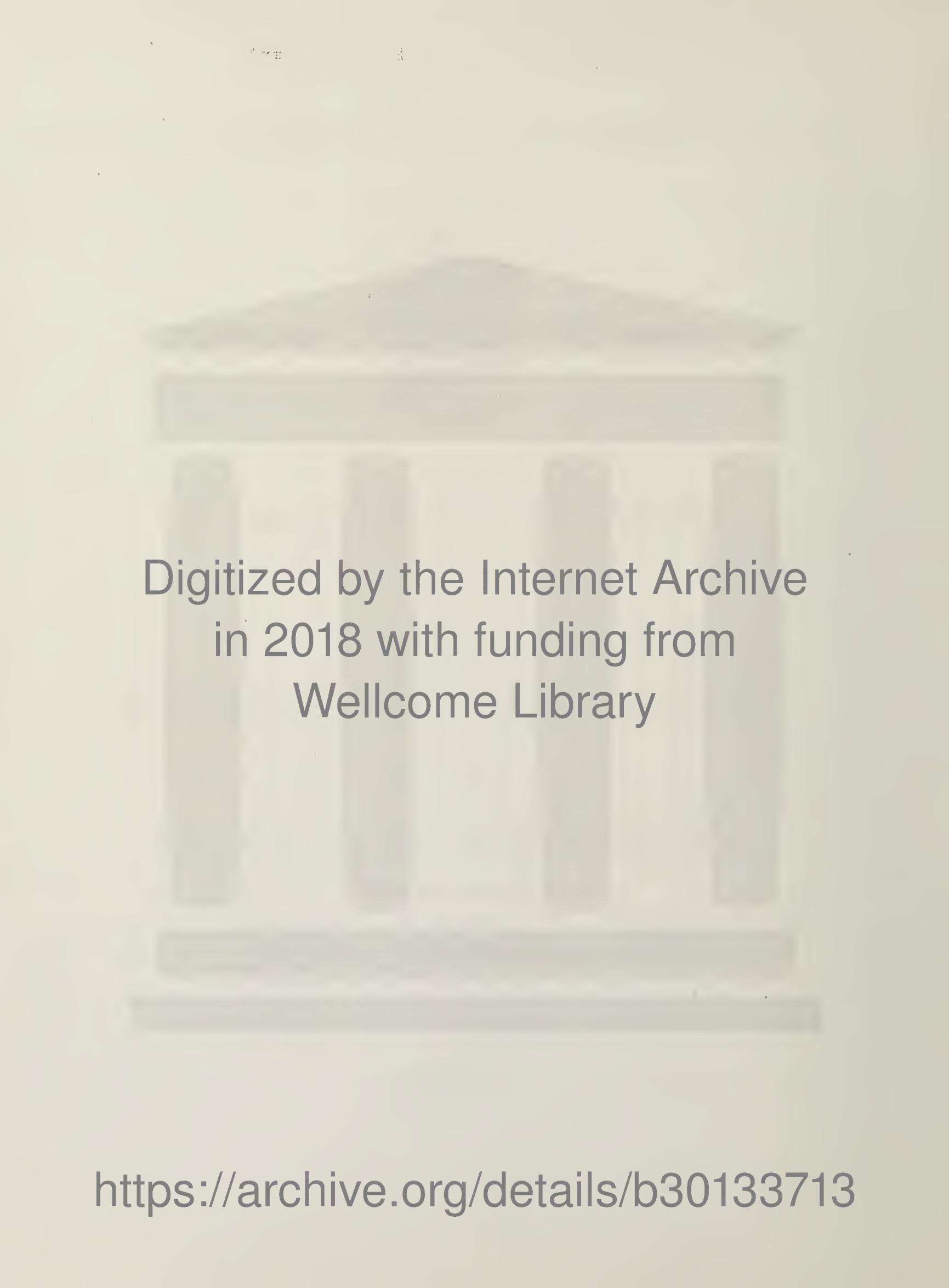
OF THE

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BOROUGH OF STALYBRIDGE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(December, 1955)

Chairman	- - - - -	Alderman J. Porter.
Deputy Chairman	- - - - -	Councillor H. White.
The Mayor	- - - - -	Councillor V. Whelan.
Alderman A. Allen		Councillor K. F. Rae
" A. Slack		" J. W. Sleigh
" H. Slack		" D. Stanley
Councillor J. S. Barker		" E. Taylor
" J. D. Lilley		" J. Wainwright
" H. Myers		" F. W. West

S T A F F.

THOMAS HOLME, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. - Medical Officer of Health,
Divisional Medical Officer,
Divisional School Medical
Officer, Stalybridge and
Dukinfield Health Division.

J. NORRIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. - Chief Sanitary Inspector &
Cleansing Superintendent.

Inspector under Contagious
Diseases of Animals Act.

C. F. SPENCER, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. - Additional Sanitary Inspector.

A. CLOUGH - Chief Clerk.

MISS J. NORTON
MRS. D. KING
MISS K. SELLARS
E. N. DAIRYCHAIR

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Gillott and Gentlemen,

I wish to present my seventh Annual Report for your consideration. It is based on the work of the Public Health Department during 1955 and includes extracts from my Annual Report on those services in the area which are administered by Cheshire County Council under Part III of the National Health Services Act, 1956.

Since 1950 there has been a declining birth rate with the exception of the year 1952, but this year the figure rose to 16.5 per thousand population. The death rate of 14.32 is higher than the two preceding years and this also applies to the infantile mortality rate of 30.32 per thousand related livebirths.

In my last report I commented on the survey carried out by this department on the houses in the town. 1955, will be remembered for the practical work which was done to clear the area of unfit houses. Much painstaking and detailed work is necessary before this type of property is placed in a clearance area and one of the department's main tasks during the year was to collect evidence and compile reports for the representation of these areas. It is pleasing to report that we were able to carry out the wishes of the Committee to the full and without extra staff though at times we were sorely tried and I think it should also be noted that with minor modifications Ministry approval has been obtained for each of the areas which has so far been represented. At the time of writing there is a lull in the slum clearance programme which it is hoped will be only temporary in view of the large number of unfit houses still to be cleared.

With the exception of measles the town was free from any major outbreak of infectious disease. There were relatively few cases of whooping cough and there is no epidemic of sonne dysentery to report as in 1954. The Borough maintained its record in the field of poliomyelitis and 1955 was the third successive year free from this infection. Although still too high the notifications of tuberculosis were lower than in 1954.

In spite of the publicity given to lung cancer there were only 5 deaths from this cause during the year out of a total of 322 deaths. On the other hand there were four times as many deaths from bronchitis and seventeen times as many deaths from heart disease. I feel, therefore, that if conditions like lung cancer and indeed poliomyelitis were considered in their true perspective the public would be spared a great deal of mental anxiety about conditions which are relatively uncommon. There is still a lot to be done in the field of smoke abatement, the provision of adequate and sanitary housing accommodation and home accidents to name but three fields of activity of greater importance than the two I have quoted above.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their invaluable help and co-operation, and the members of the staff for their loyal support throughout the year.

Yours obediently,

T. HOLME.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1956.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area (in acres) ... ... ...	... ...	... ...	3,190
Population Census, 1951 ... ...	... ...	... ...	22,544
Population mid-year 1955 (estimated) ... ...	... ...	... ...	22,490
Estimated value of a Penny Rate ... ...	... ...	... ...	£449
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1955 ... ...	... ...	... ...	£115,159
No. of houses in Borough (approx.) ... ...	... ...	... ...	7,552
No. of business premises ... ...	... ...	... ...	1,464

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total	Total
Legitimate	172	171	343)	
Illegitimate	10	11	21)	564
Live Birth rate per 1,000 population				
crude	-	16.18		
corrected	-	16.50		

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total	Total
Legitimate	3	5	8)	
Illegitimate	-	-	-)	8
Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	-	21.51		

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
All causes	149	173	322
Death rate per 1,000 population			
crude	-	14.32	
corrected	-	14.32	

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Death rate of infants per 1,000		
	livebirths	- 30.22
Neonatal Death Rate		- 21.98

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 livebirths)	- 0.00
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PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Stalybridge is roughly triangular in shape, bordered on the south side by the Municipal Borough of Dukinfield, on the north west by the Municipal Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne and on the north and east by Mossley and Mottram respectively.

The River Tame, which at this point is the boundary of Lancashire and Cheshire, divides the town; the northern half lies in Lancashire, whilst the southern half lies in Cheshire. For administrative purposes the Borough is considered to be in Cheshire.

The Borough, surrounded by hills on all sides except the West, is situate on the westerly slopes of the Pennine Chain, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Manchester and, although the main portion of the town is built round the River Tame at approximately 400 feet above sea level, the ground on the eastern side rises to a height of 1,000 feet.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The industries in the town are many and varied but cotton remains the most important in relation to the numbers employed. I am indebted to Mr. Gove of the Ministry of Labour and National Service who has kindly supplied me with statistics which show that the average number of wholly unemployed during 1955 was 74 (51 men and 23 women) the highest figure being 86 in both September and November and the lowest being 60 in May. These figures include 22 disabled persons of whom 20 are men. There was a slight fall in the number of persons engaged in textiles which amounted to 4,404 as against 4,557 in 1954. This represents approximately 40% of the insured population of 11,002.

As I have already pointed out the most time consuming task of the department during the year was in dealing with unfit properties. Following the Council's decision to demolish 650 houses in the first five years detailed inspections were carried out on 148 houses to obtain evidence for their inclusion in clearance areas. This evidence was required at the first Public Inquiry which was held in September, and for two other clearance areas when a Public Inquiry was not required. Details for a fourth clearance area were also prepared in readiness for an Inquiry held early in 1956. In addition to the above 41 houses were represented as individually unfit during the year. There is no doubt that adverse housing conditions have an effect both on the physical and mental health of the occupants and I feel that the time of the Committee and the department has been well spent in dealing with these clearance areas and individually unfit houses. I do feel, however, that from a health point of view better results would have been obtained if we could have spent more time on demolishing the worst houses first before redevelopment was started.

BIRTH RATE.

There were 37 more births recorded in the Borough in 1955 than 1954. Altogether there were 364 births of which 182 were males and 182 were females giving a corrected livebirth rate of 16.5 per thousand population. Although there was a decrease in the number of male births this was compensated by an increase in the number of females.

Table I shows the comparative figures for the remainder of the country.

DEATH RATE.

There were 322 deaths in the Borough in 1955 an increase of 36 over the previous year. Of those 149 were males and 173 were females giving a crude death rate of 14.32 per thousand estimated population.

The standardised death rate for Stalybridge, that is the death rate adjusted for the particular variations in age and sex distribution in Stalybridge compared with the country as a whole, was 14.32. The increase in the number of deaths is attributable to a greater number of cases dying from cancer, from vascular lesions of the nervous system and from heart disease. The commonest causes of death were heart disease with 83 cases, vascular lesions of the nervous system with 60 cases, cancer with 55 cases and diseases of the respiratory system with 39 cases.

Once again there were two fatal motor accidents in the town a figure which has been constant each year since 1952.

There were 15 deaths due to other forms of accident a figure which in my opinion is high when it is remembered that the majority of these could have been prevented. Two of them were most tragic in so much as they involved babies under one.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

There was an increase in the infantile mortality rate in 1955 to 30.22 per thousand related livebirths. This figure is made up of 8 males and 5 females which are analysed in Table IV.

NEO-NATAL DEATH RATE.

The neo-natal death rate, which represents the number of deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per thousand livebirths, was 21.98 compared with 18.35 in 1954.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

I am pleased to report there were no maternal deaths during the year.

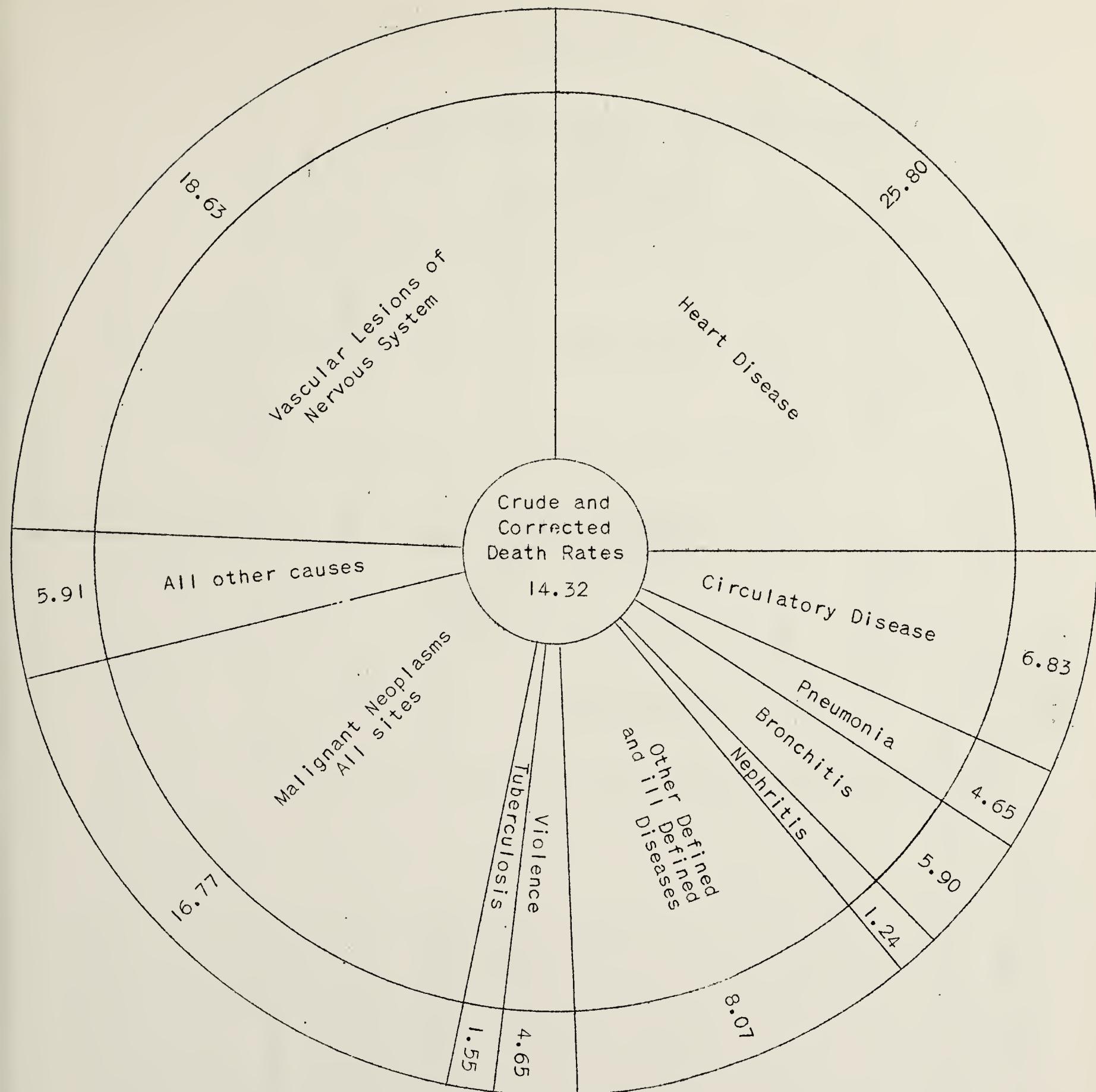


TABLE I.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS of MORTALITY during the YEAR, 1955
 (Provisional figures)

	Rate per 1000 Total Population	Rate per 1000 Live & Stillbirths	Rate per 1000 Related Births
All Causes (under one Year)			
Stillbirths			
Livebirths			
All causes Deaths			
England and Wales.....	15.0	11.7	24.9
Stalybridge.....	16.50	14.32	21.51
			30.22

TABLE II.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN 1955.

CAUSE OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total all ages
Tuberculosis Respiratory.....	2	2	4
Tuberculosis Other.....	-	1	1
Syphilitic Disease.....	1	1	2
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.....	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
Measles.....	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach.....	6	5	11
Malignant Neoplasm - lung and bronchus.....	4	1	5
Malignant Neoplasm - breast.....	-	8	8
Malignant Neoplasm - uterus.....	-	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	12	15	27
Leukaemia and aleukaemia.....	-	1	1
Diabetes.....	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	28	32	60
Coronary disease, angina.....	20	16	36
Hypertension with heart disease.....	2	2	4
Other heart disease.....	15	28	43
Other circulatory disease.....	10	12	22
Influenza.....	-	2	2
Pneumonia.....	11	4	15
Bronchitis.....	11	8	19
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	3	-	3
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea.....	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.....	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	13	13	26
Motor vehicle accidents.....	2	-	2
All other accidents.....	4	9	13
Suicide.....	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
ALL CAUSES	149	173	322

TABLE III.

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY
RATES IN THE BOROUGH FROM 1900.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1900 - 04	24.58	20.1	210
1905 - 09	23.01	18.63	193.2
1910 - 14	21.63	17.92	165.48
1915 - 19	16.83	17.75	130.9
1920 - 24	18.56	15.08	114.9
1925 - 29	14.97	14.80	81.1
1930 - 34	13.47	13.78	73.80
1935 - 39	12.94	15.02	54.6
1940 - 44	15.42	16.11	60.57
1945 - 49	18.78	14.98	45.69
1950	15.39	15.58	28.73
1951	15.61	15.83	28.41
1952	17.07	14.73	33.67
1953	14.927	13.016	23.809
1954	14.798	12.688	27.523
1955	16.50	14.52	30.22

TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1955.

CAUSE OF DEATH	AGE (MONTHS)												Total all ages	Rate 1000 Live Births																			
	-1			1-			3-			4-			5-			6-			7-			8-			9-			10-			11-		
	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M						
Congenital Malformations....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Other Defined & Ill-defined Diseases.....	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Pneumonia.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Other Accidents.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Total	6	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				

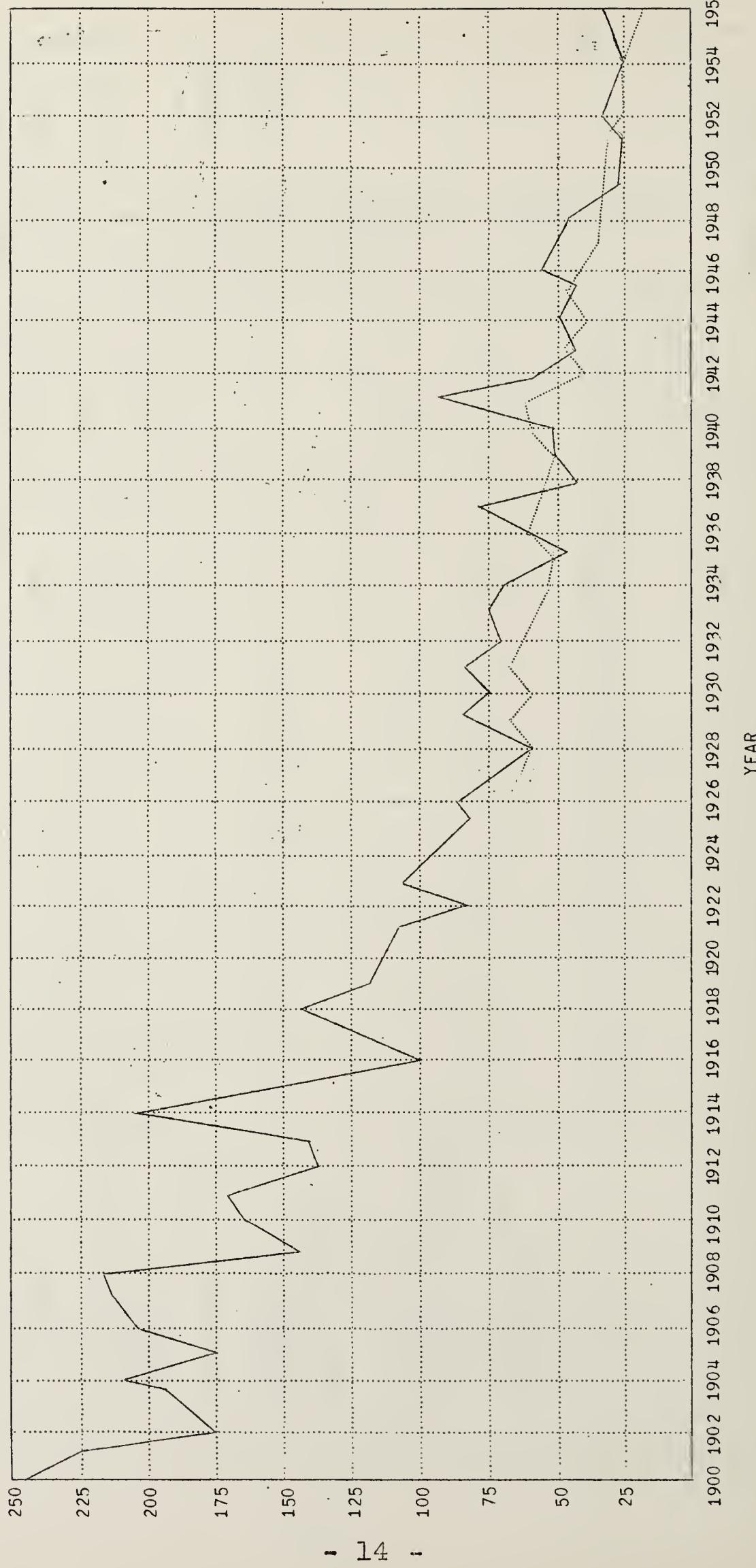
Neo Natal Rate 21.98 compared with that for 1954 18.35

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE - STALYBRIDGE (1900 - 1955)

STALYBRIDGE INFANTILE MORTALITY per 1000 live-births

ENGLAND & WALES INFANTILE MORTALITY per 1000 live-births

1900 1902 1904 1906 1908 1910 1912 1914 1916 1918 1920 1922 1924 1926 1928 1930 1932 1934 1936 1938 1940 1942 1944 1946 1948 1950 1952 1954 1955



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH

SERVICES IN THE AREA.

BACTERIOLOGY.

Swabs and samples for examination continue to be sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester. The number of specimens examined decreased to 132.

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Total</u>
Blood	-	10 10
Faeces	37	80 117
Throat Swabs	-	4 4
Brawn	-	1 1
 Total	37	95	132

I would again like to express my appreciation of the work of the Public Health Laboratory. I have found Dr. Parker and his staff most helpful at all times and their co-operation has greatly assisted this department in any investigation it has made.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Since the introduction of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 31) Order it has not been found necessary to take as many samples as in previous years. The benefit to the general public is shown in this year's figures when no samples positive for tuberculosis were obtained. It is also pleasing to note that only one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year a state of affairs which has largely been brought about as a result of the consumption of milk free from tubercle bacilli.

In all 19 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for the methylene blue test and for biological testing for tuberculosis.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The Cheshire County Council continue to administer the Food and Drugs Act and the samples of food noted below were obtained in the Borough during the year by the Weights and Measures Department of that authority. Mr. Stacey Hallard reports as follows :-

Name of Sample	Results of Analysis.					Reported Genuine against	
	1	2	1	1	1		
Almond Marzipan. Pure	1	-	
Cream, Thick	2	2	
Elder	1	-	
Lard	1	-	
Magnesia Powder	1	-	
Margarine with 10% Butter	1	-	
Milk	57	2	
Orangeade Power	1	-	
Pills: Blood Pressure	1	-	
Polony	1	-	
Rice	1	-	
Sugar: Chocolate Icing	1	1	
Sweets	3	-	
Tablets: Dextrasol	1	-	
" Strength	1	-	
Tea: Sylvian	1	-	
					75	5	

PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES NOT UP TO STANDARD

No.	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1.	Milk	Abnormal. 2.3% def. in S.N.F.	No action.
2.	Milk	Abnormal. 3.5% "	" "
3.	Cream Thick	47.9% deficient in fat.	
4.	Cream Thick	52%	" " "
			Fined £2. 0. Od.
5.	Sugar - Choc. Icing	Only 0.2% fat-free cocoa substance	Packers cautioned and undertook to amend label.

WATER SUPPLIES.

14 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and results were recorded as follows :-

3 samples of the Town's water were found to be satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory.

3 samples of a small chlorinated supply serving 185 houses in the Millbrook district were found to be satisfactory.

7 samples of the spring supplies in the Carrbrook and Millbrook area were taken - 3 were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

The Engineer and Manager of the Ashton-u-Lyne, Stalybridge, Dukinfield (District) Waterworks, Mr. N. T. B. Whitson, reports on the Stalybridge water supplies as follows :-

The quality and quantity of the water have both been satisfactory.

Bacteriological examination of piped supplies.

Type of Water	Samples Taken	Results
Raw	None	-
Filtered water - taken directly after filtration	12	Quite satisfactory.
Filtered water - tap samples taken at various points in the Borough	34	Quite satisfactory.
Chemical Analysis	2	Quite satisfactory.

Plumbo Solvency. Calcium Carbonate added before filtration. 16 samples were taken and the results were all satisfactory.

No form of contamination has presented itself.

Population supplied from public water mains :-

- (a) Direct to Houses - 22,544.
- (b) By means of stand pipes - NONE.

SPRING SUPPLY - CARRBROOK AREA.

During the year the department took frequent samples from this supply.

The source of the water in this area is suspect as it is felt that it is mainly derived from the surface ; an although satisfactory samples have been taken from time to time, unsatisfactory reports have been obtained on numerous occasions. At the time of writing further steps are being taken to improve the supply.

TABLE V.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious Disease Notifications
1955

DISEASE	All ages	Nos. notified in age groups						Age un-known	Removed to Hosp.	Total deaths in district
		1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-			
Scarlet Fever.....	13	-	1	3	5	3	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-	1	6	1	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	15	1	1	163	201	5	2	-	-	-
Measles.....	496	9	111	163	2	-	1	1	5	15
Pneumonia.....	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neon.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	4	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Meningococcal mening.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	1	-	-	-	1	5	7	-	4
Tuberculosis pulm...	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Tuberc. non-pulm....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL.....	562	14	119	167	214	9	10	7	5	20

TABLE VI.

Incidence of the Main Infectious Diseases.1948 - 1955.

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	13	10	25	38	10	24	17	23
Tuberculosis (all forms)	21	27	14	26	32	22	18	18
Measles	496	17	423	70	588	47	237	91
Whooping Cough	15	57	122	82	86	165	95	75
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	16	159	30	24	60	10	25	10
Total	561	270	614	242	776	268	395	217

SPECIFIC INFECTIONS.DIPHTHERIA.

Once again I can report that there were no cases of diphtheria in 1955, and it is satisfactory to note that only one case has occurred in the past eight years. Immunisation is carried out free by the General Practitioners and at the clinics and the number of children protected will be found in the section of the report which deals with the services administered by the Divisional Health Committee.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of scarlet fever cases notified was only 15 and these were of the usual mild type.

PNEUMONIA.

5 cases were notified during the year and deaths classified to this cause numbered 15.

TYPHOID FEVER.

There are no cases of typhoid fever to report during 1955.

POLIOMYELITIS.

For the third consecutive year I am pleased to report that the town was free from this disease although a case in an adjoining Borough occurred near the Stalybridge boundary.

I feel that much unnecessary anxiety is caused in the minds of the public during the summer months in relation to this condition. I would once more draw your attention to the relative unimportance of infantile paralysis and remind Stalybridge inhabitants of the fact that 13 people died in 1955 from accidents which, in the main, occurred at home. Paralysis does not always occur in the course of this disease and when it does the prospects of recovery are reasonably good.

TUBERCULOSIS.

26 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have been notified and of these 6 were cases transferred from other areas. 4 persons were certified as having died from pulmonary tuberculosis and one from non-pulmonary tuberculosis as compared with 2 pulmonary tuberculosis and one non-pulmonary in 1954. Further comments on this disease together with a report on the scheme of B.C.G. vaccination will be found in the section which deals with the work of the Divisional Health Committee.

TABLE VII.

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on Register at December 1951 - 1955.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1951	45	46	17	17	62	63
1952	50	51	17	16	67	67
1953	59	57	16	16	75	73
1954	75	62	15	13	90	75
1955	79	58	9	8	88	66

Table VIII indicates the speed of disposal of all patients requiring sanatorium treatment.

TABLE VIII.

Cases having received treatment before notification	6
Cases notified but not admitted to Hospital (died).	1
Admitted within one month of notification.....	10
Admitted within two months of notification.....	3
Diagnosis not confirmed.....	1
Total (pulmonary and non-pulmonary).	21

CANCER.

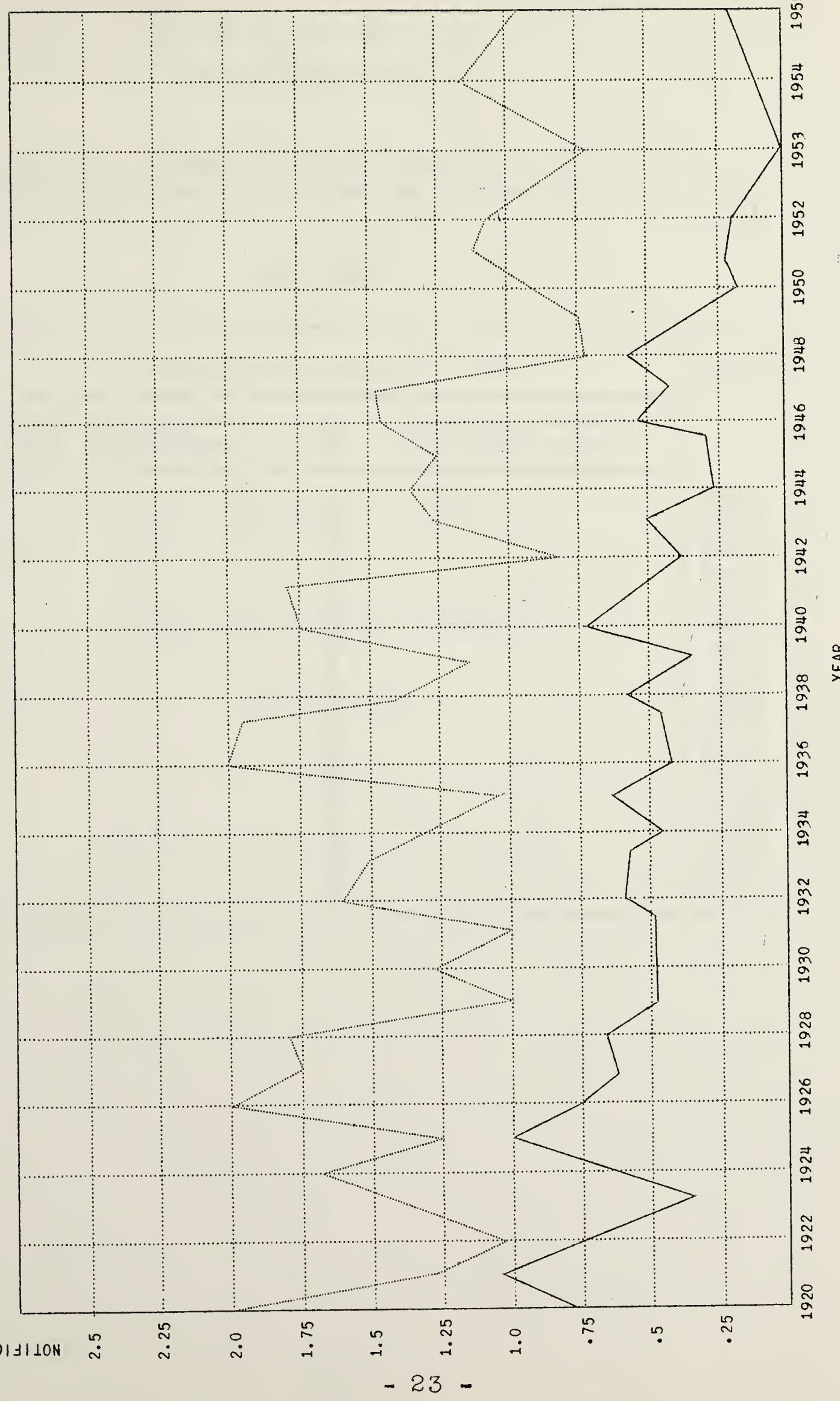
There was an increase in the number of deaths from cancer from 43 in 1954 to 54 in 1955. Of these only 5 were of cancer of the lung.

FOOD POISONING.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS TREND 1920 - 1955

Notification per 1000 Population
Deaths per 1000 Population



H O U S I N G.

The following table gives the number of houses which have been represented as unfit for human habitation since 1940 :-

TABLE IX.

Year	No. of houses represented	
	Section 12 (1) Closing Order	Section 11 (1) Demolition Order
1940	3	-
1941	-	-
1942	-	3
1943	4	3
1944	2	5
1945	-	4
1946	-	3
1947	1	1
1948	-	-
1949	-	5
1950	-	8
1951	1	2
1952	1	4
1953	4	10
1954	16	1
1955	33	5

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
AND
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT
FOR THE YEAR

1955

— 00 —

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.

Mrs. Gillott and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my ninth Annual Report on the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector's section of the Public Health Department and Cleansing Department.

Following on the housing survey carried out in 1954 slum clearance commenced in earnest. The Council approved a five year plan comprising 650 houses and decided that 146 houses, plus 9 houses in High Street purchased by agreement, should be dealt with in the first year. The whole of the 146 houses were represented in 1955 and were contained in 9 clearance areas. Objections were made against the Henry Street and Bridge Street areas. A Public Inquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the 27th September. No objections were made against the Robinson Street/Summers Street and Cartwright's Buildings Clearance Area but the houses were formally inspected by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inspector. It will, I feel sure, be appreciated that dealing with 146 houses in clearance areas plus 41 individually unfit houses with a staff of two Sanitary Inspectors meant other important Public Health work being neglected and unfortunately the work to suffer most was the inspection of food premises.

The number of smoke observations again increased and whilst appreciating that progress against atmospheric pollution is very slow it is felt that this work should be allotted as much time as possible.

One hundred per cent meat inspection was again achieved and whilst the number of animals killed was not high it is felt that the inspection of all animals slaughtered in our slaughterhouse is a very necessary service - a service which at times is only achieved at considerable personal inconvenience on the part of the Meat Inspectors. It is also felt that meat inspection is a service which is not sufficiently appreciated by members of the general public.

The amount of waste paper continues to rise and the 280 tons collected is again the highest ever. The income of £2,511 received from salvage is a considerable amount in a town with a population of only 22,490.

My thanks are due to the Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. F. Spencer, without whose help and assistance the work detailed in the succeeding pages could not have been carried out.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the assistance given by the staff and employees of the Public Health and Cleansing Departments.

Your obedient servant,

J. NORRIS.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

July, 1956.

TABLE I.

Inspections	Number	No. Notices served		Result of Service of Notice		
		Staty.	In-formal	Com-plied with	Out-stand-ing	Proso-cutions
Housing	3298	98	400	474	24	7
Yards, Courts, Passages	10	-	4	3	1	-
Drainage & Conversions	484	-	76	76	-	-
Infectious Disease	59	-	-	-	-	-
Meat & Other Foods	467	-	-	-	-	-
Food Premises	257	-	5	5	-	-
Milk & Dairies	36	-	1	1	-	-
Ice Cream Mfr. & Shops	47	-	2	2	-	-
Water Supplies	21	-	-	-	-	-
Shops Acts	101	-	11	11	-	-
Factories Act	80	-	4	4	-	-
Refuse Collection	48	-	4	4	-	-
Refuse Disposal	168	-	-	-	-	-
Smoke Abatement	146	-	9	9	-	-
Hairdressing Saloons	21	-	-	-	-	-
Schools	2	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	19	-	1	1	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	20	-	11	10	1	-
Offensive Trades	17	-	-	-	-	-
Contagious Diseases of Animals	85	-	-	-	-	-
Pets Act	5	-	-	-	-	-
Rats & Nuis. Infestns. " " "	83	-	7	6	1	-
(visits by Rodent Operator)	1425	-	-	-	-	-
Unclassified Visits	223	-	30	25	5	-
Interviews	1037	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8159	98	565	651	32	7

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES
LET-IN-HODGINGS.

There is one registered common lodging house and one house let-in-hodgings. Regular visits are made to these premises.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT DEFECTS.

During the year 1,610 complaints were received and investigated.

7 prosecutions were taken during the year details of which are given below :-

24.1.55.	12, Kinder Street	21 day Abatement Order granted by Magistrates.
14.2.55.	41 & 43, Cecil Street	Case adjourned on the promise of solicitors to have the work done within 14 days (this was done).
4.4.55.	11, Montague Street	21 day Abatement Order granted by Magistrates.
25.4.55.	17, Church Street	6 week Abatement Order granted by Magistrates.
27 & 28 June/55.	61, Grasscroft Street	2 months Abatement Order granted by Magistrates.
4.7.55.	17, Church Street	Enforcement of Abatement Order made by Magistrates on 25.4.55. Owner fined £1 and 10/- per day after 21 days.

98 formal and 532 informal notices dealing with 1,105 defects were served.

3 informal notices requiring the provision of 9 ashbins were served.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Following on the survey of unfit houses carried out in 1954 the Council decided that 650 houses should be dealt with in clearance areas within the next five years. It was also decided that no properties should be included for patching in this period. 146 houses were detailed to be represented as the first year's programme and inspections of these houses were commenced immediately. The first Public Inquiry was held on the 27th September, 1955, when objections relating to three Clearance Areas in Henry Street, Thomas Street and Bridge Street were heard.

41 houses have been represented as unfit for human habitation - 5 demolition and 36 closing orders were made.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Details of Certificates granted and revoked are as follows :-

<u>Address</u>	<u>Date of Application</u>	<u>Date Revoked</u>
33, Chootem Hill Road	30.12.54.	30.11.55.
18, Hillwood View, Knowl Street	3.1.55.	30.11.55.
36, Buckley Street	4.3.55.	Not revoked.
13, Stamford Grove	5.7.55.	7.9.55.
17, Stamford Grove	30.6.55.	7.9.55.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

A considerable amount of time was spent on meat inspection and it is again pleasing to report that 100% inspection was achieved.

The figures in Table II show the number of animals inspected and the percentage condemned.

TABLE II.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	622	807	39	2937	99
Number Inspected	622	808	39	2937	99
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBE CULOSIS & CYSTICERCI					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	145	225	-	273	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	23.51	27.88	-	9.53	5.05
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	9	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	139	308	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	22.51	39.16	-	-	3.05
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

† Emergency slaughter on farm.

The approximate weight of meat and offal condemned at the Buckley Street Slaughterhouse is as follows :-

				<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Tubercular ...	...	...	...	10191 lbs.	19462 lbs.
Non-tubercular .	...	...	...	6705 lbs.	9328 lbs.
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				16896 lbs.	28790 lbs.
				<hr/>	<hr/>

Details of meat and offal condemned are as follows :-

				<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Whole carcase	...	...	...	10	11
Part carcase	...	...	...	38	23
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	81	98
Lungs	...	...	...	298	588
Diaphragms	...	...	...	58	96
Hearts	...	...	...	44	29
Livers	...	...	...	263	408
Part Livers	...	...	...	125	343
Stomachs	...	...	...	25	39
Mesenteries & Intestines	...	...	...	67	124
Spleens	...	...	...	48	39
Kidneys	...	...	...	15	11
Plucks	...	...	...	43	43
Tails	...	...	...	-	10
Udders	...	...	...	13	122
Lung & Heart	...	...	...	-	2
Kidney & fat	...	...	...	-	7

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The slaughterhouse in Buckley Street owned by the Co-operative Society is the only one licensed. The Council passed a resolution that the slaughterhouse facilities in Stalybridge were adequate for the time being having regard to reasonable requirements of persons making use of these facilities and that no additional facilities were required. This resolution was confirmed by the Ministry of Food.

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED MEAT AND OFFAL.

All condemned meat and offal is sold by the contractor who uses the slaughterhouse to a firm outside the Borough for processing after being stained green by the Meat Inspectors.

In addition the following have been condemned :-

279	tins Meat	33	lbs. 10 ozs. Ham
20	" Fish	39	" Sausage
32	" Soup	10	" Steak
314	" Vegetables	16	" Bacon
152	" Fruit	1½	" Tongue
146	" Milk	1½	" Corned Beef
43	" Tongue	1	" Jellied Veal
9	" Corned Beef	44	" Carp
44	" Ham	2	jars Chicken Spread
1	" Corned Mutton	1	" Dressed Crab
1	" Pudding	4	" Salmon
4	" Creamed Rice	1	" Salmon Spread
1	" Jellied Veal	2	" Fruit
2	" Pork Luncheon meat	1	carton Cream
1	" Rabbit	3	boxes Cake Cream
1	" Whole Chicken	9	Chicklets
1	" Frozen Egg	43	Fish Cakes
4	" Syrup		

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14
OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

<u>Ice Cream</u>	- Manufacture	1
	Storage and Sale	69
<u>Preserved Foods</u>	- Preparation and Manufacture	69

In relation to ice cream premises the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952 are complied with.

FOOD PREMISES.

The routine inspection of food premises has continued during the year and 336 visits were made. The following is a list of visits made to different classes of food premises :-

			1954	1955
Butchers' Shops	...	...	136	55
Bakehouses	...	...	82	67
Cafes and Canteens	...	...	46	25
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	12	13
Ice Cream Manufacturing and Storage	...	...	63	36
Fishmongers	...	...	12	7
Other food premises	...	...	280	133

Unfortunately the number of food premises inspected during the year was less than the previous year, this was due to the considerable amount of time spent on housing inspections and administrative work in connection with our slum clearance programme.

PUBLIC HOUSES

The Interim Report on the progress of implementing the recommendations of the Public Health Committee regarding conditions in public houses was submitted in February and the following is a list of improvements which have been brought about in public houses :-

New sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Alternative means of heating (Immersion or. Gas Water Heater)							21
Alterations to Gents W.C.'s	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
" " " Urinals	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
" " " Ladies W.C.'s	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Defects to cellar floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
" " " walls	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Screening of Gents Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Defects to waste water drainage remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Automatic flushing cistern provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Additional W.C.'s.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Replacement of lead beer pipes	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Broken washbasin replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Defective yard surface repairsd	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Improvement to cellar ventilation	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Screening of Ladies Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

ICE CREAM.

Distribution of ice cream within the Borough continues to be very satisfactory, only closed motor vans and trailers specially constructed and equipped with hot and cold water are used.

11 Methylene Blue samples were taken during the year, the results were graded as follows :-

	Manufactured			
	In Borough		Outside Borough	
	1954	1955	1954	1955
Grade 1	5	2
Grade 2	5	2
Grade 3	4	-
Grade 4	2	-

It is gratifying to note that no unsatisfactory samples were taken during the year as against 7 in 1954. Advice was given to the manufacturer in the Borough regarding the use of sterilising agents and it would appear that this has contributed towards the improvement.

MILK SAMPLES.

Details of samples taken during the year and comparisons with 1946 to 1955 are noted below :-

<u>Methylene Blue</u>	<u>Producers in Borough</u>		<u>Producers outside Borough</u>	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
1946	17	-	6	-
1947	19	1	8	1
1948	27	-	5	-
1949	31	3	13	6
1950	23	7	17	4
1951	26	4	23	1
1952	29	1	10	1
1953	41	2	23	1
1954	10	1	25	1
1955	5	4	10	-

9 samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken. Each sample satisfied the Phosphatase Test.

B. Tuberculosis

1946	17	-	7	-
1947	15	1	9	-
1948	21	-	4	-
1949	25	5	16	-
1950	24	2	19	1
1951	23	4	10	1
1952	27	1	12	-
1953	40	2	31	1
1954	10	1	23	-
1955	9	-	10	-

As Stalybridge is in a Specified Area and only Designated Milk is sold the number of producer/retailers is now very small. A very large percentage of the milk retailed is pasteurised and sterilised milk processed by the large dairies.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND
STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK)
REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the above
Regulations during the year :-

SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES

- Pasteurised ...	6
Sterilised ...	8
Tuberculin Tested	6

DEALERS' LICENCES

- Pasteurised ...	30
Sterilised ...	129
Tuberculin Tested	23

REGISTERED MILK DISTRIBUTORS

142

SMOKE ABATENENT.

137 observations were taken during the year as against 92 in 1954 and 17 in 1953. 9 of the observations exceeded the time limit for dense smoke as against 10 in 1954.

The 9 smoke nuisances were investigated and explanations offered by the offending firms were accepted.

In spite of the pressure of other duties, particularly housing, a considerable amount of time has been spent on smoke abatement and every effort is being made to lessen the pollution of the atmosphere by smoke from industrial plants. Firms are notified of the result of each observation whether or not a smoke nuisance has occurred. This is appreciated by the Management of the firms who feel that their boiler firemen like being told when a good observation has been recorded as well as being criticised when a smoke nuisance occurs.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the Rodent Operator made 1,425 visits and assisted employees of the Borough Surveyor's Department in carrying out a sewer treatment. Unfortunately the second sewer treatment had not been commenced at the end of the year. The total number of visits made to premises in connection with rodent control by all members of the Public Health Department staff was 1,508.

235 new infestations were reported and successfully dealt with as compared with 274 in 1954.

29 Annual contracts were in force at the end of the year and the total income received from contracts amounted to £149. 0. Od.

7 informal notices were served under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and complied with.

Details of the work carried out in the Borough as detailed in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food official form is as follows :-

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.
REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1956.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All Other Business Promises) (inc. Business Promises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1) and (2) (4)	Agri-cultural (3) (5)
I. No. of properties in L.A.'s District (notes 1 and 2)	7	7552	1464	9023	23
II. No. of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	1	147	39	187	-
(b) Survey under the Act	8	38	73	109	4
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	-	-	-
III. Total inspections carried out - inc. re-inspections	219	618	475	1312	21

	Non-Agricultural				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols.(1) (2) and (3)	(5) Agri- cultural
IV. No. of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats { Major	-	-	3	3	-
{ Minor	4	13	21	38	-
(b) Nits { Major	-	-	-	-	-
{ Minor	2	29	51	82	-
V. No. of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A.	6	42	75	123	-
VI. Total treatments carried out - inc. re-treatments		(To be completed only if figures are readily available)			
VII. No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	-	5	2	7	-
VIII. No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	-	-	-	-	-
IX. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
X. No. of "Block" control schemes carried out	-	-	-	-	-

NOTE 1. - With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered separately in the Valuation Roll for the area.

NOTE 2. - (i) Premises used by the L.A. for the purposes of trade should be entered in Col. (3).
(ii) Sewers should not be included.
(iii) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person, should be regarded as business premises and should be entered in Col. (3). Where the dwelling and business parts of the premises are in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Cols. (2) and (3).

NOTE 3. - For the purpose of completing Sections II, IV and V, each property should be entered once only in respect of inspections, infestations or treatments.

DISINFECTION.

8 houses were fumigated. 5 beds, 25 blankets, 23 pillows and bolsters and 42 other articles were disinfected.

WASTE WATER CLOSET CONVERSIONS.

The Council has continued to make a grant of £8 or half the cost of conversion whichever is the lower, to owners of property wishing to convert waste water closets. 32 applications for grant were received during the year making a total of 267 since the scheme was commenced in 1947.

DISINFESTATION.

Insecticide containing D.D.T. is used for disinfection and 9 houses involving 21 rooms have been treated by this method.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No important extension to the sewerage system has taken place during the year.

25 drains, 76 W.W.C.'s, 21 fresh W.C.'s and 45 waste water gullies have been opened by Cleansing Department employees during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

147 visits to bakehouses and other factories have been made during the year as against 190 in 1954. 4 informal notices have been served and complied with.

TABLE III.

INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

1. - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	No. on Re- gister	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	
Factories without Mechanical Power	40	2	-	-
Factories with Mechanical Power	182	151	4	-
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	222	153	4	-

2. - Defects found.

Particulars	Number of defects			Number of defects in respect of which prose- cutions were in- stituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilating (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective draining of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences -				
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	6	6	6	2
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
	7	7	6	-

OUTWORKERS

There are five outworkers in the town employed by firms outside Stalybridge. Each outworker is engaged in making wearing apparel.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

1 building is now used for tripe boiling, and 2 as Marine Stores for the business of rag and bone dealing. The premises are visited regularly.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Several complaints were received during the early part of the year regarding congravention of Sunday Trading Restrictions and in April a letter was sent to the occupiers of all mixed businesses drawing their attention to the requirements of the Act and informing them that the Council would consider taking legal proceedings against anyone found to be committing an offence.

REFUSE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

COLLECTION.

		1954	1955
Ashbins emptied	...	357,105	346,098

The following loads of Refuse were dealt with -

<u>House Refuse</u>	<u>Pails</u>	<u>Salvage</u>
4,320	43	721½

The estimated weight of house refuse removed was 8,856 tons based on an average weight of 2 tons 1 cwt. (test weighings).

Provision of Ashbins.

As from April 1st 1952 ashbins were supplied by the Council as a charge against General Rate Fund and since that date 1,964 ashbins have been supplied. During the year 496 bins were supplied to domestic houses and 99 bins were sold.

During the year an additional burden was placed on local authorities by the levying of purchase tax on ashbins at the

Autumn Budget in October. Fortunately most of our bins had then been purchased for the 1955/56 financial year.

Sickness.

The number of working days lost through sickness was 294 as against 224 in 1954. Whilst this shows an increase it is considerably less than the 516 days lost in 1953.

Refuse Collection Vehicles.

Details of vehicles operated by the Cleansing Department are as follows :-

<u>Registered No.</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Purchased</u>	<u>Price</u> £	<u>Depreciated Year</u>
DTU 83	S.D.	8 cu. yd.	Mar. 1937	542	1943
JLG 62	S.D.	8 cu. yd.	Aug. 1946	866	1953
LMA 802	S.D.	8 cu. yd.	Apl. 1949	1145	1957
PLG 536	S.D.	8 cu. yd.	July 1952	1305	1959
PTU 171	Ford	10 cwt. Van	Jan. 1953	458	1959
ONE 147	Karrier	8/9 cu.yd.	Feb. 1954	850	1961

A Karrier Bantam Refuse Collection Vehicle with a 9 cubic yard body was ordered in November to replace DTU 83. This vehicle was to be delivered in May, 1956.

Refuse Collection.

Refuse collection has proceeded normally during the year and a collection period of from 7 to 11 days has been maintained (apart from holiday periods) in spite of new building. As housing development continues consideration will have to be given to the employment of additional men on refuse collection if a reasonable frequency of collection is to be maintained.

Wage increase.

During May the wages of ashbinmen were increased by 10/6d. per week.

DISPOSAL.

The whole of the house-refuse collected was disposed of by controlled tipping. 796 loads of covering material were used.

Tip Fires.

In spite of warnings in the Press and a number of prosecutions, trespassing on the Tip continues. Fires were started by children on 6th August and 2nd October. In addition a further fire occurred in February, this was caused by hot ash in one of the refuse collection wagons. The fire in October occurred during the water shortage and because of this the Fire Service could not assist us. In view of this it was necessary to deal with the fire by scaling and whilst this proved successful the portion of the Tip affected retained its heat for a considerably period.

These fires cause a considerably amount of concern in the Department and daily supervision, including weekends, has to be kept on the affected part of the Tip. This, apart from the inconvenience caused, is costly.

SALVAGE.

The amount of waste paper collected continues to increase and this year's figures were again the highest ever recorded. Waste paper prices continue to rise and on the 1st January mixed waste rose from £7 to £7. 10. Od. per ton and on the 1st April to £8 per ton.

	1954.		Income £
	T.	C.	
Paper	252	15	1659
Kitchen Waste	59	8 (3 months)	230
Metal	19	4	111
Textiles ...		17	28
Sundries ...	6	-	57
	338	4	2085

1955

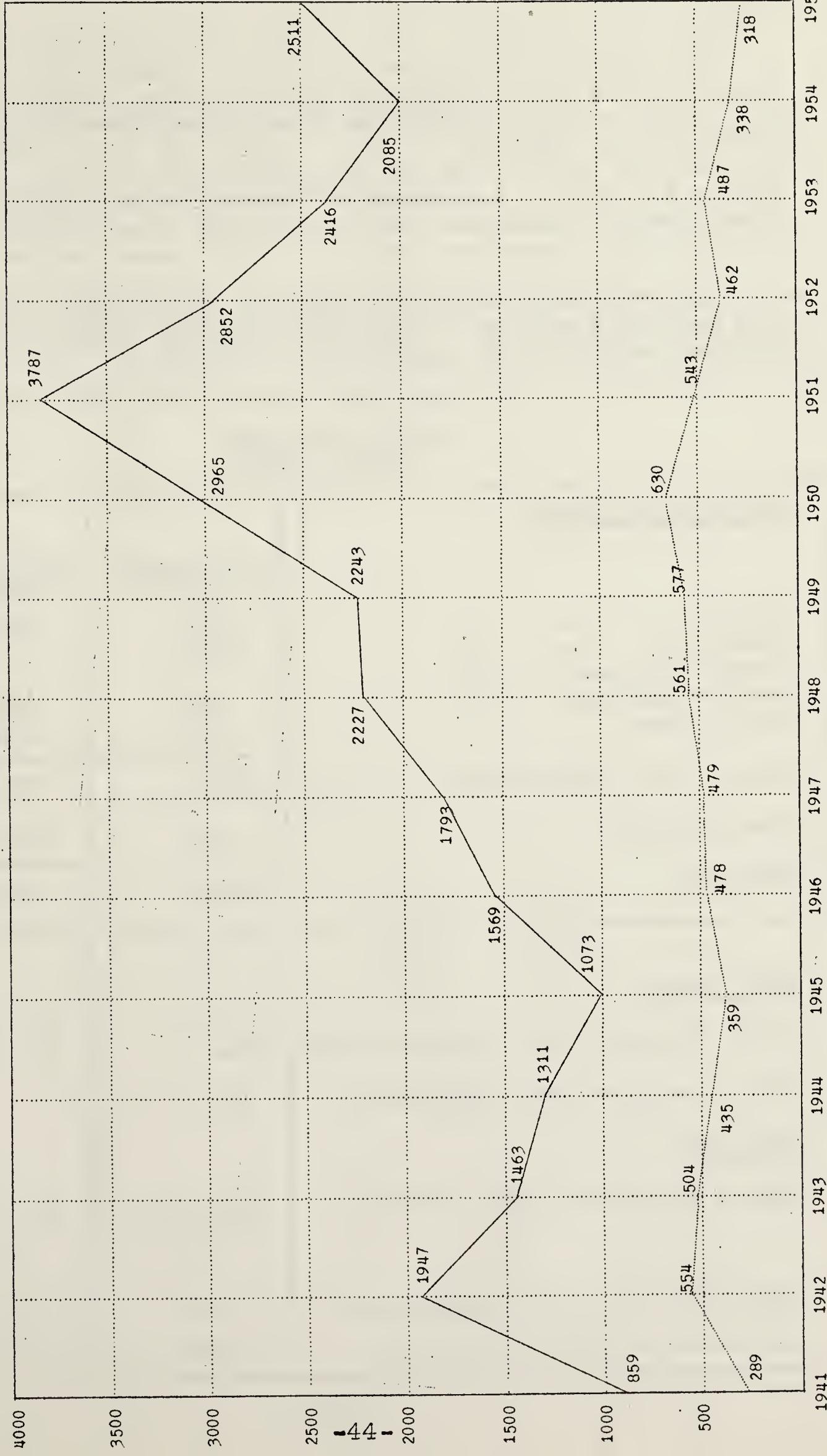
	T.	C.	£
Paper	280	4	2207
Metal	31	3	220
Textiles ...		15	20
Sundries ...	6	0	64
	318	2	2511

SALVAGE 1941-1955

WEIGHT AND INCOME

Weight in Tons

Income in £



COSTS.

The costs given below are those included in the Public Cleansing Costing Return submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the year ended 1954/55. This return is submitted annually to the Ministry by Local Authorities of over 20,000 population and is similar to the one required before the war. A summary of the whole of the costing returns submitted is published and interesting comparisons can then be made with Cleansing Costs of other Local Authorities.

It will be noted that Disposal Costs show a credit, this is because the Ministry require all salvage income (apart from raw kitchen waste) to be credited to Disposal.

COST STATEMENT
1954 - 1955

<u>Gross Expenditure</u>	<u>Collection</u> £	<u>Disposal</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
Labour	7038	878	7916
Transport	3989	-	3989
Plant, equipment, land and buildings ...	996	338	1334
Other items	461	115	576
Total Gross Expenditure	12484	1331	13815
Gross Income	207	2113	2340
NET COST	12277	802 Cr.	11475
<u>Unit Costs</u>			
Gross Cost per ton (Labour only)	s. d. 15. 1.	s. d. 1. 10	s. . 16. 11
Gross Cost per ton (Transport)	8. 6.	-	8. 6.
<u>Net Cost</u>			
(All expenditure less income)	26. 3.	1. 9. Cr.	24. 6.
	£	£	£
Net Cost per 1,000 population	544	35 Cr.	509
Net Cost per 1,000 premises	1399	91 Cr.	1308

Other interesting figures not included in the Cost Statement are :-

<u>Cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal</u>	
<u>per person</u>	2.35d. per week.
<u>per premises</u>	6.04d. per week.

It is interesting to note that only 22 of the 421 Local Authorities submitting returns have lower Disposal costs per thousand premises than Stalybridge. The average Non-County Borough cost is £220 per thousand premises, Stalybridge shows a credit of £91 per thousand premises.

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S U P P L E M E N T.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STALYBRIDGE AND DUKINFIELD HEALTH DIVISION

REPORT OF THE
CLERK TO THE DIVISIONAL
HEALTH COMMITTEE
AND
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1955

STALYBRIDGE & DUKINFIELD DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN - July, 1954 - June, 1955 - COUNCILLOR A. HITCHEN
July, 1955 - Dec. 1956 - ALDERMAN MRS. A. SLACK.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN - July, 1954 - June, 1955 - ALDERMAN MRS. A. SLACK.
July, 1955 - Dec. 1955 - COUNCILLOR J.S.B. GOW.

COMMITTEE.

Representing the Local Health Authority.

Chairman of the County Health Committee, Coy. Ald. G. Astbury, J.P.
(ex-officio)

Deputy Chairman of the Coy. Health Committee, Coy. Cr. A. Whitley
(ex-officio)

County Alderman A. Bown, J.P.

County Councillor J.H.I. Radcliffe, J.P.

County Councillor W. Reece (from June, 1955)

County Councillor J. Turner, J.P.

County Councillor J. Wright (to June, 1955)

Representing Dukinfield M.B.

Councillor N. T. Ashton, J.P.

Councillor J.S.B. Gow.

Councillor A. Hitchen.

Councillor J. Howard.

Councillor H. Johnson (from June, 1955)

Councillor F. Richardson (to June, 1955).

Councillor Mrs. L. Senior (from June, 1955)

Representing Stalybridge M.B.

Alderman Mrs. L.L. Gillott

Councillor J. Healey (to June, 1955)

Alderman J. Porter, J.P.

Councillor F. Shaw (from June, 1955)

Alderman Mrs. A. Slack

Councillor W. E. Taylor

Councillor P. Walton

Councillor J. Wainwright.

Co-opted Members

Dr. J. Macfie (Chesh. County Local Medical Committee) (to June, 1955)

Dr. J. R. Wardley " " (from "

J. Clegg, Esq., M.B.E., (Ashton, Hyde, Glossop Hosp. Management Comm.)

Alderman G. Saxon, O.B.E., J.P., (D/field & S/bridge Div. Executive) (to June, 1955)

Councillor H. White " " (from "

Mrs. J. Ashton Mrs. M. Storrs, J.P.) Co-opted by Divisional

Mrs. E. A. High Mrs. N. Sykes) Health Committee

Mrs. G.M. Savage (from June, 1955, Mrs. M. Wynroe) (to June, 1955)

S T A F F

Divisional Health Office,
99, Grosvenor Street,
Stalybridge. -

Divisional Medical Officer

Clerk to Committee

Assistant County Medical Officer

Chief Clerk

Clerical Assistants

- Thomas Holme, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
- P. W. Musther, F.C.I.S.
- Ena M. Cant, M.B., Ch.B.
- A. Clough
- T. N. Darraugh
- Misses J. Norton, D. King,
K. Sellars, O.B. Butterworth

Ambulance Supervisor

- J. Roebuck.

Health Visitors

(Stalybridge)

- Miss S. A. Watson (died Mar./55)
- Miss B. Sherratt (resd. July/55)
- Miss D. P. Flint,
- Miss C. Makin,
- Miss M. Slack (apptd. May/55)
- Miss F. Richardson (apptd.
Aug./55)

(Dukinfield)

- Miss W. Grimstone,
- Miss W. E. Beresford,
- Miss C. Hellings (apptd. July/55)

District Nurses

(Stalybridge)

- Mrs. E. H. Slater,
- Mrs. E. Garside (retd. June/55)
- Mrs. E. Waite (resd. June/55)
- Miss Cameron (from 21.10.55)
- Miss A. Wright (from 6.8.55)
- Miss E. Leigh (from 15.8.55 to
19.10.55)

(Dukinfield)

- Miss M. Stratton (retd. Dec./55)
- Miss E. Ambler,
- Miss O. Morton (apptd. Dec./55)

School Nurse

(Dukinfield)

- Mrs. E. M. Thomas (retd. Mar./55)

Midwives

(Stalybridge)

- Miss N. Robinson,
- Mrs. F. Dent,
- Miss M.E. Rhodes (resd. Sept./55)
- Miss Banks (apptd. Sept./55)

(Dukinfield)

- Miss A. Lees,
- Miss L. Bradley,

Authorised Officer

- J. Thompson

Physiotherapist

- Mrs. C. Cooke

Dental Surgeons

- Miss L. Kippen, L.D.S., D.P.D.
(part time basis - Stalybridge)
Mr. J. Lancashire, L.D.S.
(part time basis - Dukinfield)

Specialists

Ophthalmic Surgeon

- B. Boas, M.D.

Orthopaedic Surgeon

- J. L. Mangan, F.R.C.S.

Gynaecologist - Stalybridge

- W.E.C. Thomas, M.B., Ch.B.,
M.R.C.O.G.

Tuberculosis Physician

- E. Ratner, M.D., D.P.H.

Ear, Nose & Throat Surgeon

- E. M. Innes, F.R.C.S., D.L.O.

General Practitioners

- M. Hillel, M.B., Ch.B.
(for Dr. Wardley)

attending Welfare Centre,
Dukinfield on a sessional
basis.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

The three Welfare Centres in the Division are situated as follows:-

Dukinfield - King Street, Dukinfield.

Stalybridge - Mechanics' Institute,
New clinic, Millbrook.

Sessions are held as follows:-

King Street - Wednesday mornings and afternoons
and Thursday afternoons.

Millbrook - Monday afternoons.

Mechanics' Institute - Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons

Dukinfield Welfare Centre

An encouraging feature of the year's work was in increase in the total of new cases and there was a corresponding increase in the total attendances. Specialist clinics also showed increases over the previous year.

The final phase in the redecoration programme was completed during the year, otherwise no work of a constructional kind was carried out.

Mrs. Thomas, the School Nurse retired in March after many years of excellent work carried out with interest and efficiency and she will be missed by parents and staff alike. Miss Hellings who was appointed her successor took up her duties in July. The Health Visitors in Dukinfield now undertake school work with their other duties and are responsible for the schools in their respective areas.

Mechanics' Institute

There is little new to note about the work carried out at the Stalybridge clinic during the year under review. The numbers of new Child Welfare cases and total attendances are almost identical with the figures for 1954. There were, however, staff changes, the vacancy caused by the death of Miss Watson on which I commented in my last Annual Report being filled by the appointment of Miss Slack who took up duty in May, 1955

Miss Sherratt was transferred to another area in the County nearer her home in July and her departure ended many years of happy associations and co-operation with the rest of the clinic, office staff and mothers of the town. She was succeeded in August by Miss F. Richardson.

Millbrook

The new clinic premises proved to be a big advantage to the staff and mothers and the attendance figures show an increase over the previous year. There were, as I have already pointed out many teething troubles with the building equipment that had to be overcome in the initial stages but I feel that these are now behind us. The garden was an eyesore throughout the year and difficulty was experienced in obtaining a satisfactory tender for clearing it and seeding it down. I think it would be a decided advantage if the County Council included the laying out of gardens in the original estimate for the building as I feel new premises are ruined by surrounding land left untidy by the building contractor.

Voluntary Workers

Once again on behalf of the nursing staff I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the work so willingly and cheerfully given at the Dukinfield, Stalybridge and Millbrook clinics by the voluntary workers during the year.

General

During 1955 the total of livebirths in the Division increased to 611 from 531 in the previous year. Of the births notified 431 or 68.63% took place in hospital a figure consistent with the trend of the last few years when it has been noted that an increasing number of confinements have taken place in maternity wards. The number of stillbirths increased to 17 of which 8 occurred in hospital and 9 at home.

The work of the Health Visitors continues to be as varied and exacting as ever undertaking as they do clinic sessions and domiciliary visits to a variety of people for a variety of reasons. The "other visits" - 2717 - which are recorded include visits to domestic help cases, old people, tuberculosis patients and problem families.

Four of the Health Visitors received training under Professor and Mrs. Ewing in the assessment of deafness in children. In July the Committee authorised the purchase of the necessary equipment and regular sessions are now held to carry out this most useful work in the pre-school child.

		1955	1954
Total births in the Division -	livebirths.....	611	531
	stillbirths.....	17	15
" no. transfers into the Division.....		94	127
" " of Welfare Sessions held.....		277	279
" " children attending for 1st time	0-1 yr....	476	433
" " of attendances.....	0-1 yr....	7227	6657
" " "	1-2 yrs...	1511	1917
" " "	2-5 yrs...	1670	3714
" " " visits to new births.....		567	496
" " " secondary visits.....		7889	10335
" " " other visits.....		2717	2802

TABLE A. Child Welfare Clinics

Quarter	March			June			September			December			
	Clinic	S/B	D/F	M/B	S/B	D/F	M/B	S/B	D/F	M/B	S/B	D/F	M/B
New cases 0-1 yrs	59	54	19	67	57	17	50	48	15	40	38	12	
Total attendances 0-1 yrs	753	583	241	896	801	255	879	885	243	730	739	222	
attend-1-2 yrs	229	141	67	175	125	83	172	127	73	155	98	66	
2-5 yrs	165	97	114	211	108	142	143	135	110	171	138	136	

The following table indicates the total births in the Division and the place of confinement :-

TABLE B

	Dukinfield						Stalybridge					
	Live		Still		Live		Still		Live		Still	
	1955	1954	1953	1955	1954	1953	1955	1954	1953	1955	1954	1953
Lake Hospital	107	84	124	2	2	4	186	174	168	5	7	3
Other Maternity Homes	62	48	66	1	-	1	68	42	47	-	2	1
Domiciliary confinement	68	68	59	5	1	1	120	115	117	4	3	3
Total	237	200	249	8	3	6	374	331	332	9	12	7

Welfare Foods

The sale of foods has continued satisfactorily from the public's point of view and I think the wishes of the Committee have been carried out - namely that the service provided by the Local Health Authority shall be as good as that when the distributing centres were the responsibility of the Government department concerned. There is no doubt however that the amount of room available at the Health Office is far from adequate under present arrangements and at the time of writing the Committee has already considered alternative arrangements which if put into effect will ease the position considerably.

The following table summarises the sale of foods during the year :-

TABLE C

Quarter		March	June	Sept.	Dec.	Total
National dried milk	@ 10½d @ 4/-d free	3775 10 -	4104 10 4	4102 15 24	3777 20 9	15,758 55 37
Cod Liver Oil		854	749	782	1036	3,421
A & D Tablets		354	380	385	359	1,478
Orange Juice	@ 5d free	3679 16	4248 19	5522 15	4280 28	17,729 78

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

The Ante-natal clinic dealt with 36 new cases during the year and 25 patients attended the post-natal clinic; the total attendances showing an increase to 221. The routine blood testing for Rh. factor and the Wasserman reaction continued.

Ante-natal Clinics

	1955	1954
No. of sessions held.....	27	25
No. of new cases.....	36	34
No. of attendances.....	221	184
No. of patients on whom Rh. factor was investigated....	29	30
No. of patients on whom a Wasserman test was performed.	26	34

Post-natal Clinics

	1955	1954
No. of new cases.....	25	27
No. of attendances.....	41	34

SPECIALIST CLINICS

It is most essential when running Child Welfare sessions to have the backing of specialist clinics where cases can be referred for consultants opinion and advice and although the numbers referred under 5 years of age appear to be small this is no reflection on the great value of this type of clinic. The numbers increased slightly during 1955.

	1955	1954
Ophthalmic (under 5 yrs.)		
New cases.....	32	20
Total attendances.....	93	66

Ear, Nose & Throat (under 5 yrs.)

	1955	1954
New cases.....	10	8
Total attendances.....	10	8

Physiotherapy (under 5 yrs.)

A large amount of most useful work is carried out at the physiotherapy sessions and altogether 1,337 attendances were made during 1955.

Total attendances for interview by Orthopaedic Surgeon.	142	166
Total attendances at Physiotherapist's Clinic.....	408	245
Total attendances for U.V.R. treatment.....	929	1489

	<u>DENTAL TREATMENT</u>	1955	1954
Ante-natal patients - new cases.....	4	1	
- attendances.....	12	1	
Post-natal patients - new cases.....	-	2	
- attendances.....	-	5	
Children under 5 yrs- new cases.....	21	26	
- attendances.....	23	37	
Dentures supplied.....	2	-	

DAY NURSERIES

The total attendances fell during 1955 due to some extent to the presence of whooping cough and measles which was also prevalent in the town at the time. At one period the waiting list dropped to nil for the first time since Divisional Administration began. The reason for this does not appear to be a simple one which could be ascribed to trade recession or excessive charges, but I feel that with a gradual shift of population it may be that the nursery is no longer conveniently situated for many mothers.

In February the County Council delegated the appointment of Nursery staff to the Divisional Committee and one such appointment was found necessary following the resignation of a nursery assistant on health grounds. Great difficulty is experienced in keeping a handyman for any length of time and 1955 was no better than other years in this respect.

Further redecoration was carried out during the year to the staff room and kitchen.

Although the cost per child/day throughout the County increased it is pleasing to note that this figure remained the same for the Dewanap Lane Day Nursery, and the average attendance though lower this year was still higher than the average.

	1955	1954
Total attendances...0-2 yrs.....	2161	2434
...2-5 yrs	5052	5232
Average attendance per child for 12 mths. (in days):		
0-2 yrs.....	154	120
2-5 yrs.....	201	217
Average attendance per day.....	31	32
New cases admitted.....	16	16
Waiting list as at 31/12/55.....	4	16
No. of mothers in employment.....	37	38
No. of medical examinations carried out.....	39	269

TABLE D

Year	1949/50	1950/51	1951/52	1952/53	1953/54	1954/55
County Average child/day	8/3½d	9/6¾d	9/3½d	11/3½d	11/7d	11/11½d
Dukinfield child/day	10/0¾d	9/6¾d	9/11½d	11/4¾d	11/8d	11/8d
% attendance County Average	84%	77%	79%	71.5%	79%	84%
Dukinfield	87%	91%	94%	87.5%	89%	87%

FACTORY NURSERIES

The supervision of the following factory nurseries is the responsibility of the Cheshire County Council and your Medical Officer visits them at frequent intervals:-

Staley and Millbrook Limited
Victor Mill Limited.
Robert Byrom (Stalybridge) Ltd.

MIDWIFERY

The Committee has had very little work in connection with the midwives in the area who are administered centrally. The County vehicle used by Miss Sowerbutts received normal maintenance throughout the year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

For the second year there was a fall in the number of children vaccinated against smallpox in spite of every effort by the health visitors to get the mothers to take their children to their own family doctor or to the clinics. I think that one of the reasons for this may be found in the fact that clinics were suspended during part of the summer.

The number of children immunised against diphtheria also shows a fall when compared with the peak year of 1954 and once again I would like to stress to parents the importance of this form of protection which alone has been responsible for our comparative freedom from diphtheria since the war. Not only is immunisation offered by the doctors in the two towns but sessions are also held in the welfare clinics and also in the schools at the routine medical inspections.

TABLE E.

Vaccinations - 1955

Age at 31.12.55.	- 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 - over	Total
Born in year	1955	1954	1953 - 51	1950 - 41	Before 1940	
Vaccinated	119	78	21	28	16	262
Re-vaccinated	-	-	-	3	15	18

The figures for the seven complete years since vaccination ceased to be compulsory are as follows :-

1949	-	76
1950	-	223
1951	-	350
1952	-	459
1953	-	611
1954	-	318
1955	-	280

Diphtheria Immunisation
1941 - 55.

The following table shows the number of children at 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time since 1st January, 1941:-

TABLE F

Age at 31.12.55. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1955	1 - 4 1954-1951	5 - 9 1950-1946	10 - 14 1945-1941	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injection (whether primary or booster) A. 1951 - 1955.	35	1189	1114	369	2707
B. 1950 or earlier	-	-	1317	1770	3087

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Total no. of children immunised by general practitioners at their own surgeries	193	166	136	111	145	153
Total no. of children immunised at clinics	480	650	417	237	327	235
Total	673	816	553	348	472	388

Total no. of children immunised against Whooping Cough only - 5

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The year 1955 will be remembered as one through which this service had a somewhat stormy passage and calm waters were only reached early in the present year. There were several incidents which led to differences and difficulties between the staff and as a result the Ambulance Sub-Committee met to consider suggestions made by the men and later to investigate a special case. The suggestions made about alterations to the Ambulance Depot itself and in relation to the special case were put into effect. The alterations which involved the building consisted of improved lighting, insulation of the walls and roof of the building and the provision of an emergency exit via the mess room window.

In addition the mess room furniture was replaced. I regret to have to report that the major scheme of improved lighting and insulation remains to be done but it is hoped this will be completed before the present winter.

There was one change among the staff during the year and the designations Driver and Attendant were at last changed to Driver/Attendant in June bringing all the staff on to the same conditions of service.

After many months under repair one ambulance was brought back into service, another of our older vehicles was disposed of and a replacement sitting case car was obtained in May. In February arrangements were made to obtain petrol from the Fire Station pump and the existing arrangement with the Stalybridge Highways Department was terminated.

In 1955 the total number of patients carried increased to 13,046 from 12,199 during 1954 and there was a corresponding increase in mileage to 61,076. At more than one meeting the Committee discussed the abuse of the service - a feeling which is also shared by the staff. I would point out that no patient is carried unless authority is obtained and care is taken to check up any case where it is felt patients could get to hospital by other means.

The establishment of ambulances, cars and staff in the Division during the year was as follows:-

Vehicles	-	3 ambulances
		1 sitting case car
		1 " " " (from 21.5.55)
Staff	-	1 Supervisor
		2 Attendants
		6 Drivers
		1 Sitting Case Car Driver

TABLE G.

Stalybridge

	No. of vehicles	Total No. Journeys	Total No. Patients Carried	No. of Accident & Emergency Journeys inc. in col. 3.	Total Mileage
DIRECTLY Amb.	2	+ (62) 1615	+ (68) 4055	+ (10) 35	+ (1301) 16,061
PROVIDED Cars	2	+ (66) 1626	+ (68) 3538	+ (8) 31	+ (1268) 20,347
<u>Dukinfield</u>					
DIRECTLY Amb.	as	1058	2676	26	10,755
PROVIDED Cars	S/Bridge	1030	2641	26	13,913

+ Passengers not included in total picked up outside the administrative County other than same day returning out-patients.

Comparative Table of Journeys etc.

Year	Journeys	Patients	Mileage	Accidents
1949	5929	8238	27052+	414
1950	6502	11140	58221	555
1951	7235	11812	61450	587
1952	7013	12139	63094	592
1953	5640	11377	60864	161
1954	5895	12199	54460	175
1955	5457	13026	61076	136

+ Stalybridge figures only

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARETuberculosis

The Committee has always taken an interest in the prevention of tuberculosis and I am glad to be able to report a reduction in the number of new notifications to 36. The total number of cases is now 288 as against 303 last year. In the field of

general preventive measures both Stalybridge and Dukinfield Housing Committees have continued to give priority to the rehousing of tuberculous patients living in overcrowded or insanitary conditions, the Health Visitors visit and advise on general health measures and a close liaison is maintained with the Chest Clinic. In addition nursing requisites are available through the loan cupboard.

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register at 31.12.55.	158	116	17	17	288
Notified during 1955	19	16	1	-	36

Deaths from Tuberculosis

Age

0 -	1 years	-	-	-	-
1 -	5 years	-	-	-	-
5 -	15 years	-	-	-	1
15 -	45 years	2	3	-	5
45 -	65 years	2	-	-	2
65 and over		-	-	-	-

B.C.G.

The work of vaccination with B.C.G. now a routine measure as a complement to the normal preventive measures, continued throughout the year. It will be noted that there was a substantial increase in the number of school children and contacts vaccinated. By the end of the year a total of 632 school children and contacts had received B.C.G., a figure which is being added to each quarter, and it is also of interest to note that on testing those vaccinated last year all proved to be still protected. The acceptance rate however fell slightly, but still remained over 75% which is encouraging. Not all children tested require vaccination and those who show positive mantoux tests are referred to the School Medical Officer for a special examination when she is next in school and during the year arrangements were also made by the County Medical Officer's Department for X-ray examination by the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit when it is available for the area.

TABLE H.

	School children	Contacts
Number	707	223
Consents	530	197
% Consents		78.17
Mantoux Positive	204	21
% Positive	32.89	11.47
No. Vaccinated	297	88

NURSING REQUISITES

The following items of nursing equipment have been issued from the Stores based on the Ambulance Depot, King Street, Stalybridge, and on the office of the Authorised Officer, Dukinfield :-

Hot water bottles	2	Drinking cup	1
Bed cradles	1	Bed	1
Air rings	31	Wheel chairs	11
Back rests	25	Crutches	2 prs.
Urinals	11	Bed pans	42
Rubber ring	1	Mackintosh sheets	15
Spinal chair	1	Mattress	1

CONVALESCENT HOME TREATMENT

Three applications for a reduction in the charge were received and considered by the Committee and in 2 cases this was reduced.

A sum of £125 was once again granted by the County Health Committee for the financial assistance of persons requiring Convalescent Home treatment within the Division. Arrangements are still in operation with the three Convalescent Homes at Llandudno, St. Annes and Marple. 12 patients were admitted during the year - 8 adult females, 3 adult males and 1 male child. 4 of the patients paid the whole cost of treatment and 8 received financial assistance.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The number of staff was increased during the year to 13 full time and 16 part time domestic helps, all of these being engaged in a temporary capacity. This was found necessary to cater for the increasing demand which is being placed on this service. Altogether 196 cases received assistance of which the majority (164) were aged and chronic sick. There is no doubt that we have not yet reached our peak and as the proportion of old people in the population increases so will the work of the domestic helps. This service is continuing to save many hospital beds at a more economical cost though I would point out here that many of the cases dealt with should have been in hospital but were unable to obtain a bed. The recent appointment of a Geriatrician has done a great deal to ease the situation with regard to chronic sick cases, and I am pleased to say that the picture has been considerably brighter since he began work in this field.

Three applications for a reduction in the charge were received and considered by the Committee and in two cases this was reduced.

No. of Cases attended by Domestic Helps

	1955	1954	1953	1952
(a) Maternity Cases, Sick & Nursing Mothers	11	12	16	12
(b) General Sickness.....	19	19	27	25
(c) Aged and chronic sick.....	164	137	118	104
(d) Tuberculosis cases.....	2	-	-	-
	196	168	161	141

It will be noticed that though the total cases attended increased by 28, the working hours increased by 10,091 to 35,116 and the average number of cases attended weekly was 115.

164 of the total 196 were long-term continuation cases of the aged person or chronic sick type, a percentage of 83.67. The number of maternity and nursing mother cases decreased by 1 and general sick cases stayed the same at 19.

In addition service for a short period was given to one tuberculous case and over a long period to another case of tuberculosis.

The total income from cases in the year was £829. 8. Od.

In a service such as this it is necessary to have reliable and honest staff and it is to be regretted that during the year action had to be taken through the Courts in respect of one of our employees.

REPORT OF THE DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER, MR. J. THOMPSON,
IN RESPECT OF WORK CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE AREA OF THE
STALYBRIDGE AND DUKINFIELD HEALTH DIVISION DURING
THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

1. Precis of cases dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

	Male	Female
Cases dealt with under Sec. 20 Lunacy Act, 1890, i.e. admitted to hospital as cases of urgency on the order of the authorised officer	3	2
Cases dealt with under Sec. 21 Lunacy Act, 1890 i.e. admitted to hospital on the order of a magistrate for observation for 14 days	3	8
Cases dealt with under Sec. 16 Lunacy Act, 1890 i.e. certified as being of unsound mind	5	5
Cases dealt with under Sec. 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930, i.e. admitted to hospital as voluntary patients.	6	7

In addition to the above 3 male and 10 female patients were dealt with as out-patients where their condition was not serious enough to warrant their admission to hospital. In one case information was laid to the authorised officer but the case was dismissed by the magistrate after examination. Arrangements were made for domiciliary visits by the Consultant Psychiatrist in three cases, and by the Consultant Physician in two cases. Nine cases were referred to the authorised officer but no further action taken after initial investigation. In one case patient recovered before admission to hospital could be arranged.

2. Visits were made to homes of mental defectives in mental defective colonies in order that reports on home conditions could be submitted to the colonies concerned.

3. In the case of 7 men and 4 women admissions were arranged to chronic sick wards for local general practitioners during the year.

4. One man, two women and four children were admitted to residential accommodation on behalf of the County Welfare Committee.

5. Two mentally defective patients were admitted to residential accommodation.

6. Domiciliary supervision visits have been made at regular intervals to male mentally defective patients in the area.
7. Items of nursing requisites have been issued from Store during the year as detailed elsewhere in the Report of the Divisional Medical Officer.

